

Does
Your
Back Ache?



THE YOUNG EMPEROR.
He was clad in the uniform of a Korean general.

A black and white photograph showing a group of men in early 20th-century attire standing around a large, ornate, dark-colored safe or cabinet. One man is standing inside the open safe, while others stand outside, some holding tools or papers. The scene appears to be outdoors or in a large, open hall.

"I was instructed to appear in full evening dress."

...the close of their war with China. The King and Queen were some-
times related to the other and all
the risk is the offering of the intermar-
riages of many cousins during these
generations. He came into life
weakling, mentally and physically.
One of our early ministers to Korea,
the late State Department con-
sular agent, mentions in his book, con-
cerning his audiences with this man's
father, mentions in a footnote having
the crown prince. When the state
prince was crowned a footnote, which
was intended only for the secretary's
use, was added to the bottom of the
page. It stated that the crown

prince was weak mentally, and that in
the opinion of the minister this was
an evidence of the evil effects of the
intermarriage of his relatives.

His Majesty's father has never been
noted for strength of character, and
he has evidently inherited nothing
from his mother, who belonged to the
same family. He has a number of con-
fidential women who have ever been
connected with an Asiatic throne.

A Baby of Thirty-five.

The weakness of the Emperor's mind
has long been a matter of remark
among both Koreans and foreigners.
He has little more intellect than a

baby. Although, it is said, his mind
brightened since he was chosen Em-
peror, now only a little more than
year ago. He is a man of no edu-
cation to speak of, and his life in
palace, where he has been surrounded
by eunuchs and the vicious serv-
ants of a depraved court, has not been con-
ducive to mental growth. His first
wife was a common prostitute who
married him, and the present Empress
is only a few years older. At the time
of his last marriage he was crown
prince, and when a wife was sought
for him, according to custom, the
choice was sent out to all the nobles

prince was weak mentally, and that in the opinion of the minister this was an evidence of the evil effects of the intermarriage of near relatives.

His Majesty's father has never been noted for strength of character, and he has evidently inherited nothing from his mother, who belonged to the Min family, and was one of the most forceful women who have ever been connected with an Asiatic throne.

A Baby of Thirty-five.

The weakness of the Emperor's mind has long been a matter of remark among both Koreans and foreigners. He has little more intellect than a

baby, although, it is said, his mind has brightened since he was chosen Emperor, now only a little more than a year ago. He is a man of no education to speak of, and his life in the palace, where he has been surrounded by eunuchs and the vicious servants of a depraved court, has not been conducive to mental growth. His first wife was but twelve years of age when he married her, and the present Empress is only a few years older. At the time of his last marriage he was crown prince, and when a wife was sought for him, according to custom, a notice was sent out to all the nobility of

dry goods box, or about four feet cubed, and it was about the same shape. It was open at the front, and the upper part of it was walled with glass so that I could look out as I rode.

The chair was upholstered in lilac satin, and had a red flannel cushion. It was about between two black rods about sixteen feet long, and at each end of these I had two bearers in livery to tote me along. At my side walked the keos, or guard of the consulate, dressed in a long blue gown, fat drawer-like trousers tied at the ankles, and a Mat felt hat, upon which they wore a large American flag. The bearers had blue gowns lined with red, and their white trousers completed the colors of the American flag. The sleeves of the keos were bordered with red, white and blue.

Thus carried, I went through the foreign section, between the high brick walls surrounding the compounds of the various embassies, to the residence of other officials live, on by the palace of the deposed Emperor, who is now a prisoner under the guard of the Japanese, and into the Japanese part of the city. We passed the finance department and finally came to the residence of Viscount Sone, the acting resident general and the real ruler of the country. After a short wait, it was arranged that we were to meet within a half hour at the palace, and my bearings were soon again on the way. The palace of the Emperor of Seoul, gleaming about two miles, from one side to the other. The way, to the palace led up a wide street walled with squalid houses, roofed with thatch of reed and with a few small shops here and there with petty stores, where white-gowned, big-hatted merchants squatted among the goods and waited for customers.

The street was filled with the traffic of everyday Korea, and my keso had to go in advance to clear the way. Bullock carts carrying great loads were turned aside, women with great coats over their heads rushed into the houses, and even the Jirishkias veered off to the right and to the left. We stopped a moment before we reached the red gate with its double roof of black tiles which forms the entrance to the imperial grounds. The soldiers there had been warned of our coming, and we soon went in and up to the palaces above.

themselves. These consist of a large number of low buildings. They are of only one story, but the floors are well up off the ground, and they have arched roofs of heavy tiles which extend far out beyond the walls and make them quite picturesque. I cannot tell you how many buildings there are in this palace, but the number is enough to accommodate quarters for His Majesty's 2,000 servants. When I say that he has 2,000 servants and that the most of these eat and sleep inside the walls, you will see that they must be extensive.

Palaces Three Hundred Years Old.
The buildings of to-day are a strange combination of the old and the new. The rulers of Korea have had a palace on the spot for more than 300 years, and the buildings have been patched up and remodeled from time to time.

Just now new structures are being erected, and the audience hall, in which His Majesty will receive in the future, is being planned from that in which I met him to-day. The audience room, where I was received by the court chamberlains, in company with General Okesaki, and a number of Japanese officials, was evidently the result of foreign graft, and I do not think of the Pennsylvania State House where the furniture was paid for by the inch. Outwardly it was a cheap, foreign style as to its decoration and furniture. It had green pine doors such as one buys at a dollar each at our lumber yards, and the doors were of the same material. The walls varied. The paper on the walls and ceiling, did not actually cost those who furnished it more than 15 cents a roll, and the yellow velvet carpet on the floor would be high at \$2 a

In striking contrast with this plainness were the uniforms of the Korean officials and Japanese generals. All were of European cut, but they sparkled with gold lace and brass buttons. The master of ceremonies wore a gold-hilted sword at his side, and he had a black hat trimmed with ostrich feathers under his arm. The Japanese army officers were clad in fine cloth uniforms of a kinko cut, but they wore decorations, according to rank and service, ranging in size from the diameter of a red cent to that of a pint cup.

When the time for my audience came, the master of ceremonies took me through a long hall into the audience room proper. This was I judge, about fifty feet wide and 100 feet long. The Emperor of Korea, several of his Cabinet and Viscount Sone stood at the opposite end of this room facing the door. The Emperor was in the centre of the party, and according to etiquette I marched forward ten steps, and then bowed. I then went on until I reached his Majesty, when I bowed again. To

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surprise the Emperor bowed, too, and held out his hand. I took it, and shook. I wish you could have felt that hand. It was as soft as cotton and warm and pleasant to touch. The man who had been received here by me had merely bowed upon my suggestion and then fled away. I suppose His Majesty was properly startled, but otherwise; whereupon the Emperor motioned me to stop, and the master of ceremonies said that His Majesty wished to speak to me. The Emperor then asked how long I had been in the country, and when I replied that I had been in the country for thirteen years ago, at the beginning of the war between Japan and China, he diplomatically asked that His Majesty looked as young to-day as he did then, he perceptibly smiled. I encouraged me to beg him to send a message through me to the United King of Korea, had the same sort of support when I appeared before him and at that time no prince or noble of such rank walked without having servants on each side to support him along. If he went upon horseback there was a man on each side of the pony to hold his legs in place and keep him from falling. These eunuchs were dressed in the same group side as the crown prince. They wore hats and gowns and big boots, and had green gold-embroidered squares on their chests and backs. The highest rank of two kneeling buttons behind their right ears, attached to their saddles, and they had long wings on each side of their caps, which stood out like ears, denoting that their owners were of high rank. The commands of the King. There was a difference of the kind in our interview to-day and the audience, all told, was not different from that of the principal courtiers, and the dress of the officials and of His Majesty was about the same.

The master of ceremonies pretended to submit this request, but whether he was or not he did not know. He spoke in Korean. At any rate, His Majesty did not answer, but in reply said that he was glad that I had come to Korea, and that he would like to have a pleasant tour through Manchuria and China, where, he understood, I was going. This was a signal for me to back my way out, not having believed in the Emperor and the Athletes.

It seems to me that the Emperor much brighter to-day than when I saw him in the prince. The Japanese officials tell me that the Emperor is feeling up, and that he shows more and more vitality from day to day. The Japanese are very anxious to influence his cabinet, but there are documents he has to sign and some sanction. He has been taken out of the use of the sword, and has visited once or twice the Japanese.

On the morning before the Emperor I had a chance to study him. He is not bad looking, and appears tall in contrast to the Japanese generals about him. He has a large head, rather high over the eyes. He wears a black moustache, a large earring, and a high collar, and his hair, strange to say, is cut short. His complexion is cream yellow, his eyes black, his height five feet seven and his weight, I judge, about 170 pounds. When I saw him yesterday he was clad in the uniform of a Japanese general, and he looked like a foreign style, and the contrast of the pale audience with that which I had seen behind himself and the former Emperor, was striking. It shows no changes which are going on in the arena.

His great eagerness was shown in the things he nearly took. He does seem to have a sense of the distance of humor in his make-up, and is anxious to know what is going on in the country. The other day, for instance, he was at the exhibition of athletic sports here in Seoul, and all the schoolboys took part. There all the foot races and other contests with appropriate prizes, and the people in general were there to see. About 16,000 were present. The contests created a great sensation and the Emperor, hearing of them, ordered that he be permitted to be brought to the palace to run before him. He did so, he was delighted and laughed and applauded. At the close of the day he awarded his highest court official to come out and congratulate among themselves. Many of these are old fellows, accustomed to being carried by the arms, as I have de-

At the last audience was in the palace when the deposed Emperor is now seen. He was dressed in a blue robe and sat down on his knees and crawled over the floor, bumping his head on the carpet when we entered the audience chamber. He continued to crawl under the eaves of the hall and then got up and bent his head double, dispersing my question to the Emperor and the same way conveying answers to me. That interpreter who had been dressed in a blue robe in a green dress, with a horsehair hat on his head. The master of ceremonies who acted as interpreter to-day stood right up and looked the Emperor over. He was dressed in a blue robe. I was so dressed that he would not have appeared out of place at a diplomatic reception at the White House. When I met the crown prince at the palace, he was dressed in a blue robe and silk, with stiff hooplike belt running around his body, under the

Some had never done a stroke of work in their lives, and none had ever run before. They tried to beg off, and were all contempt to hide. They were all dragged out and made to run, while His Majesty up roared joyously laughed.

His Majesty met the vice-minister of the household department, who has charge of all the business in Seoul, and is practically the business manager of the Emperor. We went together through the audience hall, which is now being reconstructed, to the National Museum which the Japanese have established in one of the old palace grounds. The zoological garden where His Majesty saw the camel and the beginning of a collection of the Korean fauna. The audience hall is a fine building, built of old. It is one of the finest buildings of Korea, but it was going to ruin and had to be taken down. They are now rebuilding it and adding many improvements.

plis. It was so large that it extended six inches from the dress around. This belt had decorations of jade and precious stones, and it was marked of high rank. His gown was of gold and purple and embroidered with gold medallions as big around as a tea plate. There was one of these at each of the shoulders and one each at about the fifth rib. His feet were of the same color and material and was covered with heavy blue cloth of horsehair net, which was at least five inches high. This had no rim, and it came well down over his forehead.

When the cap. I could see his topknot. His Majesty then wore his hair long, and put it up in Korean style. His crown. To-day the barber keeps it out to the length of two inches or more. He wears a sword in his right scabbard, while in place of the gown wears a foreign dress.

During my audience in 1894 this young man, who was then twenty-one, was supposed to be too young to attend. He was much younger than each of him, who held him up by placing their hands under his arms while he talked. His father, who was then

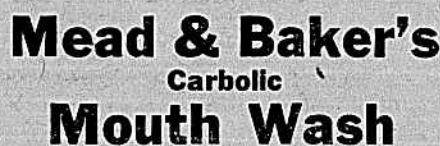
Imagine a great temple with a double roof of heavy tiles, rising more and more above the ground. Let it have a ridge of tiles in the center. Let the old style of Korean architecture, and decorate its many rafters with intricate designs. Let wide stone steps, beautifully carved, lead up to the stone platform and on into the hall, and you have the basis of the audience hall. And on the sides are long halls surrounding a court which covers perhaps half an acre. These halls are being reconstructed and are being used for the imperial receptions and dinners. The court is to have a fine garden, where the willows will grow.

The interior of the audience hall, which has a floor about one hundred square is being laid with mosaic floor. The ceiling is of wood, carved, which rises about seven feet above the floor, being upheld by many pillars, such as big brown oak, a flower bearing, but one cut out from the tree. The carvings and decorations were made by the Koreans, but the design of the hall is being put in by Japanese carpenters. When completed this structure will be one of the finest audience halls in the world.

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the empire that they must suspend giving their daughters in marriage until the Emperor's son had selected a wife. Coupled with this was an order for all who had eligible daughters to send in applications, describing the maiden and showing what they had to offer.

At first only fifteen of the noble families responded, and this, I am told, was on account of the weak mind of the crown prince and his apparent unwillingness to marry a girl so inferior to the girls of his household. I sent out a second order, requiring more applications. In reply to this, fifty were sent in, and from these the old Emperor picked out thirty. The girls represented by them were directed to come to the palace, and in due time they appeared in great state. Each girl appeared in a gilded sedan chair, carried in a box, about three feet square and no more than that high, in which the maiden sat cross-legged on the floor. These boxes were carried by servants in livery. The man serving the girls followed behind, and the other girls followed behind.

When the procession arrived at the palace the thirty maidens were carefully looked over by the Emperor, who has since been deposed, and the poorest ones to the number of fifteen were weeded out and sent home. A day or

wedded to another. Inspection was made of the marriageable ladies reduced to seven or eight. After this there was a third examination, and a young girl of about thirteen or so, belonging to the same family, was selected. Contrary to the usual custom in Korea, which provides that the groom has nothing to do with the selection of his wife, the crown prince himself picked out the final bride. The girl was the youngest of the whole thirty. She was small for her age, and when the crown prince pointed her out, his choiced his father-in-law had made a mistake, and not the others. That girl is too small,"

"Oh, as to that," was the reply of His Majesty, she will grow." He insisted upon her as the second selection, and so it was that she finally became his wife. He was right as to the growth. She is much larger now and has developed into a fine-looking Korean woman.

man. She is very bright, and the Japanese are giving her an education which is in advance of that of any Korean Queen of the past. She is studying Japanese under the wife of the vice-minister of the household department. I am told that the Emperor likes her much and that the two live together.

Before I go further, let me tell you about my audience with His Majesty. As I describe here, he looked like a time fixed in the morning and I was instructed to appear in full evening dress. I understood that I must go in state, and

I understood that I must go in state, and our consul-general kindly gave me his chair and the official bearers of our government. I started at 10 o'clock in the morning and in the bright sunshine rode through Seoul in tall silk hat, swallowtail coat, white necktie and the other appurtenances which we at home wear only after 6 o'clock in the evening.

I had to stoop low to get my tall hat into the chair, and ducked when the bearers raised me to their shoulders. The chair was not bigger than